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# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON



Herts.

ANNUAL REPORT



of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1962

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Town Hall,  
ROYSTON,  
Herts.



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
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Councillor P. L. Jacklin  
Chairman of the Public Health Committee

Dr. V. R. Walker, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
District Medical Officer of Health

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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1962 - 1963

COUNCILLORS:

R. J. GAVIN  
Chairman of the Council

MRS. E. A. KING, J. P.  
Vice-Chairman of the Council

G. E. C. Bedwell

R. C. Lawrence

A. L. Cain, A.I.E.E.

G. W. Shakespeare

F. N. Clarke

F. J. Smith

H. G. Haddock

G. W. Stevens

P. L. Jacklin

E. A. Thompson

OFFICERS:

Dr. V. R. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.,  
District Medical Officer of Health

D. J. WALKER,  
Clerk of the Council

S. M. JACKSON, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.,  
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector





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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Royston Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the direction of Ministry Circular 1/63 I present an annual report for the year 1962.

For the year the local death rate (10.7) falls below the national figure (11.9). The live birth rate (18.3) is again above the national figure, though not so high as for 1961. The local infant mortality rate is seen to be favourable and the stillbirth rate very favourable.

There was no local incidence during the year of serious infectious disease.

I would acknowledge in the preparation of this report the assistance of Mr. S.M. Jackson, your Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, who is responsible for the sections on sanitary conditions. Also I would thank your Council and its Chief Officers for every consideration and assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Victor R. Walker

District Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1963.

SECTION A

LOCAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres) .. .. .	1,626
Home Population - Registrar General's Estimate for mid-1962	6,450
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1963 (estimated)..	2,002
Rateable Value (1st April, 1962).. .. .	£100,322
Sum represented by Penny Rate (1962/3) .. .. .	£368. 16s. 7d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1962

					<u>Royston Urban District</u>	<u>Comparable rate for England and Wales</u>
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	(Legitimate	118	59	59		
	(Illegitimate	2	-	2		
	(All	120	59	61		
Rate per 1,000 population		..	..	..	18.3	18.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births..		..	..	..	1.7%	
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	(Legitimate	1	1	-		
	(Illegitimate	-	-	-		
	(All	1	1	-		
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births		..			8.3	18.1
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS</u>		121	60	61		
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>DEATHS</u>		69	37	32		
Rate per 1,000 population		..	..	..	10.7	11.9
		<u>Totals</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>		
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>	(under 1 week	2	1	1		
	(1 - 4 weeks	-	-	-		
	(4 - 52 weeks	-	-	-		
	(All	2	1	1		
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>						
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births					16.7	20.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		..	..	..	17.0	
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		..	..	..	0.0	
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)</u>		..	..	..	16.7	15.1
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)</u>		..	..	..	16.7	
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)</u>		..	..	..	24.8	
<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>						
Number of deaths		..	..	..	None	
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		..			0.0	0.35



## Comment on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year local population again showed an increase (290) on the previous year. Live births (120) were 9 less than for 1961 and local deaths (69) numbered 5 less than the previous year.

## SECTION B

### Provision of Health Services for the Area

No important change took place during the year.

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The whole of the district, with the exception of 8 houses and a small light engineering works in the Eagle Tavern Area, and the Hall, Farm and Cottages on the Burloes Estate, is supplied with water from the chalk, by the Lee Valley Water Company by a piped supply of excellent quality. The houses at Burloes are supplied by a private piped supply, also of excellent quality.

Again, as in previous years, water was carted to the premises in the Eagle Tavern area during dry spells.

With the exception of the houses mentioned above, all the other houses in the district are supplied with water direct from the mains to the houses.

The Lee Valley Water Company reported on Bacteriological and Chemical examinations of the water during the year. 60 Bacteriological and 15 Chemical samples of water were examined and all conformed to the standards of purity considered suitable for public supply.

The supply to domestic and other premises was maintained throughout the year.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Temporary measures were continued to control flooding of the irrigation beds at the Sewage Works, following consultations with the Consulting Engineers. The agreement was continued with the farmer of land adjoining the Sewage Works for the preparation of three irrigation beds on his land together with the necessary ditching, etc. to allow for any overflow from the works. The beds on the Sewage Works were also scraped and ploughed in rotation, and these efforts prevented any untoward flooding.

The new sewage pump was supplied and the pump and temporary pump house were erected and put into operation.

Negotiations with regard to the discharge of Trade Effluents from Industrial Works were continued between the firms concerned and the Consulting Engineers.



The Consulting Engineers continued their investigations into the provision of a new Sewage Disposal Works but at the end of the year no finality had been reached.

Sixty seven new houses built by the Council and private enterprise were connected to the sewage system during the year.

Two small sewer extensions were carried out during the year, one in Priory Lane, to serve one new and two existing dwellings, and one to serve the factory established in the old Maltings and the residential development of 20 houses in Green Drift.

There are thirty-nine houses in the district which have cesspool or septic tank drainage. Cesspools are emptied once a year by the Council free of charge.

#### Refuse Removal and Disposal

The cost of refuse removal and disposal for the year amounted to £4,235.

A once weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year, the refuse collectors working on an incentive bonus scheme which proved the work could be done well within the week.

The search for a new site for a tip was unsuccessful and tipping continued on the existing site.

Tipping of refuse continued on the existing site and maintenance of the tip was continued and advantage taken to seal the tipping area whenever covering material was available. Treatment by spraying with insecticide was carried out to prevent the breeding of flies.

Regular baiting and poisoning treatment against rat infestation was carried out during the year.

#### Rodent Control

The Rodent Control Scheme worked satisfactorily during the year and the following work was carried out:-

Total number of private premises treated	-	118
Total number of local authority premises treated, including tip	-	2
Total number of business premises treated	-	32
Total number of sewer maintenance treatments	-	2
Total number of premises treated under annual contract	-	2

The total number of inspections made by Officers of the Public Health Department and the Operator during the year was 318, including 10 inspections of agricultural land and 10 block inspections.

## Sanitary Inspections of the Area

The details below show the number of inspections made during the year:-

Under the Housing Acts	31
Under the Public Health Acts	149
Under the Factory Acts	32
Prevention of Infectious Diseases	4
Milk and Dairies Orders	4
Food Shops and Stores	115
Bakehouse Inspections	6
Prevention of Nuisances	131
House Drainage	52
Supervision of Refuse Collection and Disposal	84
Rats and Mice Destruction	318
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	8
Miscellaneous Inspections	104

Details resulting from the above inspections are as follows:-

Statutory Notices served	-
Informal Notices served	72
Notices complied with	69
Houses demolished	7
Houses rendered fit as a result of formal action	-
Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	35
Houses roofs renewed or repaired	21
House windows repaired	12
House chimneys repaired	-
House floors renewed or repaired	10
House ceilings renewed or repaired	14
House walls (external) repaired or plastered	2
House eaves gutters renewed or repaired	22
Internal wall plaster repaired	18
House drains relaid or repaired	210 yds.
Gullies fixed	10
Intercepting traps fixed	1
New sinks fixed	8
Sinks renewed or repaired	4
Sink waste pipes renewed or repaired	12
W.C. roofs repaired	2
W.C. pans renewed or repaired	8
W.C. cisterns renewed or repaired	36
New baths fixed	5
Inspection chambers built	8
Inspection chambers repaired	4
New Vent shafts fixed	-
New F.A.I. fixed	4
Water service pipes repaired	21
Dampness remedied	14
Cooking ranges renewed or repaired	-
Hot water systems provided	5



Blocked drains cleared and cleansed	36
Accumulations of rubbish removed	39
Houses disinfected	2
Bakehouse floors cleansed	2
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	1
Bakehouse ceilings cleansed	2
Sanitary conveniences at Factories repaired	3
Sanitary conveniences at Factories cleansed	3
Sanitary conveniences provided at Building Sites	9

#### Building Byelaws and Town and Country Planning

Plans and applications submitted	146
Plans and applications withdrawn	8
Plans and applications approved	120
Plans and applications disapproved	11
Plans and applications decision pending	7
Approved for new estates and houses	17
Approved for other buildings	75
Approved for change of user	1
Approved for advertisement signs	5
Approved for use of land and for layouts	17
Approved for siting of Caravans	5
New houses completed:-	
By local authority under Housing Acts	21
By private enterprise	46
Other buildings completed	92
Drains laid to above	4,658 yds.
Gullies laid to above	134
Connections to sewer	25
Vent shafts fixed	53
Inspection chambers built	164
Water closets fixed	94
Intercepting traps fixed	12
Baths fixed	72
Sinks fixed	75
Lavatory basins fixed	84
Dustbins provided	92

#### SECTION D

##### Housing

Twenty-one houses were erected by the Council during the year.

Forty-six new dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

No requisitioned property is held by the Council.

One property was approved during the year for Improvement Grant under Section 30 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.



Under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, eight applications for Standard Grants for improvement of dwellings were approved.

Standard Grants were paid during the year for the provision of 3 fixed baths, 3 wash basins, 4 hot water supplies and 2 food storage facilities.

#### Slum Clearance Programme

The demolition of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 Victoria Terrace and Nos. 7 and 9 Queens Road was completed and the site levelled. The land adjoining this site was the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order, but the result of the Inquiry was not known at the end of the year. The object of acquiring this land was to provide, in conjunction with the site of the demolished cottages, sufficient acreage for the provision of Old Peoples' dwellings.

#### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Five Conditional Approvals under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, were granted for the siting of caravans and Site Licences were issued in respect of these single units on isolated sites.

The caravans on the Willowside Poultry Farm site were removed and all the caravan dwellers found other accommodation, some being rehoused by the Council, and others finding their own alternative accommodation.

One site on which two caravans were placed was considered to be unsuitable and one of the caravans was removed. The Council considered the making of an Order under Section 26 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, for the removal of the remaining caravan, and the submission of the Order to the Minister for confirmation.

The provision of a Municipal Caravan Site was further considered by the Council and site layouts were prepared to fit in with possible housing development in the future.

#### Rent Act, 1957

No Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

#### SECTION E

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Food Premises in the District

The food premises, mobile food vendors, and stalls selling foodstuffs are classified according to the type in the following list. The total number given will exceed the actual number of premises as many sell various classes of foodstuffs.

	<u>Shops</u>	<u>Mobile Shops</u>	<u>Stalls</u>
Butchers	6	1	-
Grocers	14	3	1
Greengrocers	8	2	5
Wet Fish	3	-	1
Cafes	7	-	-
Canteens	9	-	-
Fried Fish Shops	4	2	-
Dealers in Sweets	20	-	-
Dealers in Cakes	10	2	2
Dealers in Bread	6	-	-
Beer, etc. (Off Licence)	3	-	-
Wines and Spirits etc (Off Licence)	2	-	-
Public Houses	9	-	-
Egg Packing Stations	1	-	-

#### Premises Registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

There are 15 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, together with 3 selling from vans not subject to registration in this district.

Fish Fryers 4, with 2 vehicles acting as mobile fried fish shops not subject to registration in this Area.

There is also a factory in this District where sweets are manufactured. This is a branch works of Messrs. Barratt & Company Ltd. of Wood Green, London.

#### Dairies (Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949-54)

There are four milk producers in the District, two of whom are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

There are two retail purveyors of milk in the District.

Periodic inspections of dairies were made during the year.

The Council's area is part of the Specified Areas Scheme which requires that only milk of Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised types should be offered for sale.

Two Dealer's Licences were issued in respect of the sale of designated milks and three Supplementary Licences were issued for the retailing of designated milks in the District from premises situated outside the Urban Area.



## Inspections of Registered Food Premises

During the year 125 inspections were made to the premises enumerated on page 8, and to other food premises. In the case of the registered premises, there is nothing worthy of comment, all the premises being of a good standard and well maintained.

## Educational activity in connection with Foods

There have been no activities such as Lectures, Clean Food Guilds, and so on, but in a small community such as this there is a close personal approach between the Officers and the food handlers, and a good deal of informal advice and instruction has resulted in a steady all-round improvement in protection of food in storage, display and general handling.

## Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in the District and no slaughtering of animals was carried on in the District during the year.

Meat in butchers shops and fish in fishmongers, has been inspected during the year.

## Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

No new circumstances arose to alter the view that there is no demand for slaughtering facilities in the Urban District at the present time.

## Other Foods

Other food shops were visited and the following were found to be unfit for human consumption on examination and were surrendered and destroyed:-

Skinned Cod	10 lbs.
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## Tinned and Packaged Food

Jellied Veal	6 lbs. (1 tin)
Pork Luncheon Meat	9 lbs. 15 oz. (5 tins)
Chopped Port and Ham	12½ oz. (1 tin)
Corned Beef	14 lbs. 12 oz. (3 tins)
Casserole Steak	20 lbs. (12 tins)
Ox Tongue	6 lbs. (1 tin)
Pressed Ham	38 lbs. 14 oz. (4 tins)
Lunch Tongue	12 oz. (1 tin)
Smoked Salmon	6 lbs. 8 oz. (6 tins)

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

The various requirements under these Regulations continue to be enforced. Washbasins, sinks with hot and cold water, together with the necessary cloths, towels, soap, nail brushes, were in all cases provided in preceding years.

Periodic inspections are made to ensure that the premises and appliances are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

## Food Poisoning Outbreaks

One case of food poisoning occurred during the year.

## Green Plunge Swimming Pool

Samples of water were taken from the above privately owned pool and the results of analysis showed the water in the pool to be suitable for bathing purposes throughout the season during which the pool was open.

## Factories Act, 1937 to 1959

The following table gives the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Form 572 (Revised).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
I. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	3	-	-
II. Factories not included in (I) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	34	18	-	-
III. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority. (excluding outworkers).	10	11	-	-
Total	49	32	-	-



## 2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of Prosecutions
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u> (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	5	5	-	-	-
Total	11	11	-	-	-

### Outworkers:

There are two outworkers reported in the District, employed on the making of "wearing apparel".

## SECTION F

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

Totals of notified infectious diseases for the whole year 1962 (after correction) were: Scarlet fever 4, Measles 2, Whooping cough 1, and Food poisoning 1.

The above numbers are seen to be few and unimportant; the single case of food poisoning (due to Salm. Typhi-Murium) was in a worker handling animal feeding stuffs outside the Royston area but further search failed to identify the source.

### Vaccination against Smallpox

During the early Spring months the Bradford outbreak had considerable impact in North Herts, with follow-up of remote contacts, a general increased acceptance of primary vaccination, and the special protection of health service personnel likely to make the first contact with any introduction of that disease into the area. Public concern and alarm also lead to a great volume of work connected with certificates for persons proceeding abroad.

### Immunisation

The standard use of a TRIPLE antigen - against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus - continues available for infants from both welfare centres and practitioners, with a generally high rate of acceptance and remarkable freedom from complaints of reaction. A "booster" dose against diphtheria and tetanus - omitting the whooping cough fraction - is offered at the time of infant school entry and is widely accepted.

Against anterior poliomyelitis, in the early summer the Ministry of Health offer of one dose of ORAL (SABIN) vaccine was made available to all children of primary school age previously vaccinated with SALK vaccine, issued in schools on a lump of sugar. Since then the ORAL vaccine, in 3 doses at 4 - 6 weeks interval, has been almost generally adopted for infant immunisation in North Herts, to give a probably more lasting and permanent type of immunity than the previous injections of SALK vaccine. Essentially an attenuated living vaccine given by mouth has replaced a killed virus given by injection.

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# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Deaths during the Year 1962

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comment: During the whole year only one new (female) case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified. From other areas there were inward transfers to the local register of 2 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory cases.

No single death from tuberculosis was credited to the district for the year.

VICTOR R. WALKER  
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1963.

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